

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather: This past week saw an increase in thunderstorm activity, especially in north-central and northeast Oregon. Some of these storms brought large hail; resulting crop damage was mixed. Three lightning-induced fires were noted in Sherman County, but they were kept contained and crop damage was small. Klamath County experienced cooler early-week temperatures and much warmer late-week temperatures. Jackson County also saw some thunderstorms and light hail. Most of the Willamette Valley saw some late-week rain, slowing down the grain harvest. Medford recorded the weekly high temperature across the State, with a high of 102 degrees.

Field Crops: Haying continued. Grain harvest ongoing. Some grass harvest still ongoing. Baker County continued haying and started grain harvest. Klamath County continued harvest for grain with some third cutting being dropped. Jackson County continued grain harvest, with straw being baled, and alfalfa nearing third harvest. Marion County had grass seed harvest beginning to wind down with most of the ryegrass, fine fescue and tall fescue harvested. Bentgrass harvest started with sugarbeet and mint harvest underway. Washington County was nearing completion on winter wheat harvest and ongoing third cutting alfalfa. Lake County was wrapping up grass hay harvest. Umatilla County continued haying. Union, Wallowa, and Sherman counties started harvest of grain crops. Wasco County had harvest delayed by rain and continued third cutting of alfalfa.

Fruit and Nuts: Summer pear harvest began in the lower Hood River Valley with Starkrimsons and Bartletts. Scattered mid-week hail storms resulted in damage in some orchards. Hail storms affected the start of Bartlett harvest in Jackson County with an estimated loss of two to three percent in the affected areas. Wasco County pears were taking on a yellow color. Evergreen blackberries and blueberries continued to be picked in the Willamette Valley. Other berry fields were being pruned and renovated. Some early apples were picked. Early season plums were harvested by farm direct marketers in Yamhill County; plums in other parts of the Valley should be ready soon. Peach harvest continued throughout the Willamette Valley. Hazelnuts continue to fill. When checking for Eastern Filbert Blight, look for limbs that have brown "flagging" or leaves that have turned brown.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries were irrigating, feeding plants, repotting plants, and doing pot rotation. Bearded iris growers were harvesting tubers for shipment to customers. Christmas tree growers were shearing trees. Easter lily growers were getting ready to plant scales from bulbs in mid-August. Growers getting ready for the "Far West" nursery show at the end of August.

Vegetables: All squash crops were producing well and available at vegetable stands. Green bean harvest continued in Clackamas County. Fresh market sweet corn harvest was underway. Tomatoes grown outside of greenhouses started to ripen. Garlic was developing into a nice crop for the year. Processing sweet corn neared maturity. Washington County reported cole crops growing well. Cucumbers were growing rapidly.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Dryland pastures were reported used up for the season in many areas of western Oregon. Supplemental feeding was common throughout these areas. Rangeland continued to dry out in eastern Oregon. Rangeland in the southeastern portion of the State was reported as very dry and dusty. Cattle were being moved off forest land in these areas early. Rangeland in northeastern Oregon was reported in better condition. Although northeastern ranges were starting to dry down, abundant forage was reported with higher elevation land still in very good condition. Livestock were reported in good to excellent condition throughout the State.

Crop Progress - Week Ending 8/8/04

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley harvested (%)	52	30	78	53
Spring Wheat harvested (%)	49	22	68	47
Winter Wheat harvested (%)	64	50	81	71
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.2	7.0	—	—

Soil Moisture - Week Ending 8/8/04

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	13	44	43	—
Subsoil (%)	14	46	40	—

Crop Condition - Week Ending 8/8/04

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat (%)	—	5	26	57	12
Barley (%)	—	2	27	62	9
Range & Pasture (%)	1	11	45	39	4

CLACKAMAS: Winter wheat harvest briefly interrupted by rain late in the week. Evergreen blackberry picking continues. Blueberries still available. Other caneberry fields being pruned and renovated. Apples and pears are sizing rapidly. Early apples being picked. Hazelnuts have sized and filled and some blanks are dropping. Green bean harvest advancing and sweet corn is underway. Nurseries irrigating and repotting. Livestock in good condition and getting supplemental feed. Rain was not sufficient to force any regrowth in dryland pastures. Showers cooled harvest work for most of the week.

COOS/CURRY: Easter lily growers preparing to plant scales from bulbs in mid-August. Livestock mostly good. Some significant rain at Brookings-Harbor, but not enough to relieve summer drought. Days since precipitation of 0.25 inches or more at Brookings-Harbor: 5 days, at Bandon: 60 days. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 59.8 at Brookings-Harbor to 61.8 deg F at Bandon; highs ranged from 69.7 at Bandon to 77.4 deg F at Brookings-Harbor, and lows ranged from 52.3 at Brookings-Harbor to 53.6 deg F at Bandon. Precipitation ranged from 0.02 inches at Bandon to 0.47 inches at Brookings-Harbor. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 72 GDD at Brookings-Harbor to 84 GDD at Bandon.

JACKSON: Grain harvest progressing. Straw being bailed; alfalfa nearing third harvest. Some fields where grain has been cut are now being disked to mulch the stubble. A few thunderstorms with some hail hit parts of the area earlier in the week and damaged some pears. The hail was nickle size and did some bruising of the fruit in those orchards that were hit. Probably about a 2 to 3 percent loss. Early Reds still being picked. Pear harvest started on Bartlett pears. Wild blackberries ripe. Lots of fresh vegetable stands now open with most all early summer vegetables ready now. Greenhouses are getting ready for fall season and still doing some maintenance and cleanup. Nurseries busy with plant watering, feeding, and care of new plantings. Cattle looking good, but dryground pastures are pretty well used up. Those on good irrigated ground are looking quite good. All other livestock also looking good. The Jackson County Livestock Auction has closed and been torn down. Some efforts are underway to start up a new site for sales.

LANE/LINN/BENTON: More field burning and crop flailing going on. Prime time for peaches and summer apples. Some strawberries and blueberries. Blackberries coming on very strong. Hazelnuts look very good. Check hazelnuts for Eastern Filbert Blight. Look for limbs that have brown "flagging" or the leaves have turned brown. Brown leaves can be caused by water stress, broken branches, western blight or EFB. The branches are easy to see in August. Full production. Tomatoes grown outside starting to ripen. Garlic looks like a nice crop. Sugarbeet seed harvest is starting. Peppermint harvest is half over. Had a light rain on Friday. Hot enough on Sunday that you couldn't tell it was here.

MARION: Recent cloudy and cooler weather has slowed harvest somewhat. Grass seed harvest beginning to wind down with most of the ryegrass, fine fescue and tall fescue harvested. Bentgrass harvest getting started. Sugarbeet seed harvest underway, as is mint harvest. In the middle of wheat harvest.

WASHINGTON: Winter wheat harvest nearing completion, with yields above average. Field corn earing well. Third cutting alfalfa ongoing. Feral blackberries ripe and abundant. Blueberry crop continues to produce. Some apples being picked. Peaches yielding well. Prunes nearing harvest. Hazelnuts filling and walnuts looking good. Sweet corn for canneries nearing maturity. All squash crops producing. Cucumbers growing rapidly. Tomatoes ripening. Cole crops growing well. Greenhouses and nurseries are digging landscaping shrubs, pruning shrubs and irrigating. Pastures dry and supplemental feeding ongoing. Temperatures range from a low of 54 degrees to a high of 92 degrees.

YAMHILL: The rainfall this week was unusual for this time of year. Peach growers applied pre-harvest controls for brown rot fruit rot. Some hazelnut growers were spraying for filbertworm. Early season plums were being harvested by farm direct marketers. Peach harvest continues.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Haying continued. Grain harvest just getting started. Hot with scattered thunderstorms.

CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON: Scattered thunderstorms in the area brought heavy rain and hail. No reported crop damage.

HARNEY: Alfalfa being harvested. Irrigating where there is water. Range dry and dusty. Cattle coming home off forest land already. Slightly cooler near the end of week.

HOOD RIVER: Summer pear harvest began in the lower Hood River Valley with Starkrimson and Bartlett varieties being picked. Mid-week thunderstorms resulted in scattered, light hail damage in some orchards.

KLAMATH: Cooler temperatures early in the week were replaced by hot temperatures. Harvest for grain and wheat crops continue. Some third cutting has been dropped. Crops continue to look good.

LAKE: It has been very hot with no precipitation. Grass hay harvest is just about complete.

SHERMAN: Last Friday the county was hit with a major power outage from 8:45 am until 5:00 pm. This shut down all the public elevators, and most of the harvest for a large part of the county. Some hauled to The Dalles facility and some could use home storage, but the main elevators were closed. Computers were off and even phone service was very limited. A good work day was lost. A thunderstorm on Wednesday night also dumped some rain. While the moisture is appreciated, it also shut down harvest again. Rates ranged from 0.04 inches to 0.16 inches. More thunderstorm activity is expected tonight. Lightning started three fires last Monday but they were kept small with only minor crop losses. Harvest will probably continue, starting on Friday. Some growers have wrapped up, others in mid-stream and only the usual gang of late starters or those with spring grain have yet to start. Some harvest truck drivers are preparing to leave for college, so growers are anxious to finish up.

UMATILLA: Weather continues to be hot and dry, with some thunderstorm activity. No major fires yet. Livestock in good to excellent condition. Pasture and range conditions mostly good to excellent. Abundant forage in most areas, but drying up quickly, even at the higher elevations. Some calves being sold for fall delivery. Haying continues.

UNION: Harvest of grain crops is just beginning. Widespread rains associated with thunderstorms have alleviated any moisture shortages for range and pasture conditions. Higher elevation range is still in excellent shape. July was hotter than normal this year but so far, August seems to be cooler. This last week had fairly moderate temperatures, but the forecast is for much warmer temperatures this next week.

WALLOWA: Thunderstorms throughout the week dumped some heavy rains and hail in portions of the county. Have not heard of any hail damage, but some dryland operators were getting harvest operations underway so we will know later.

WASCO: Rain showers occurred on Wednesday and Friday, delaying the winter wheat harvest for several days. Third cutting alfalfa continued slowly. Cattle are holding their own with the current pasture conditions. Harvest of the stone fruit crop continued. Pears were taking on a yellow color.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING August 8, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	52	87	64	4	97	20	0.55	0.34	4	61.62	-3.72	94	194
Crescent City	50	67	60	1	69	6	0.04	-0.11	4	53.46	-10.98	83	155
Florence	48	92	64	3	95	21	0.12	-0.10	2	70.55	-4.84	94	181
North Bend	54	79	63	4	96	26	0.01	-0.13	1	64.64	2.12	103	173
Tillamook	46	86	63	4	90	27	0.66	0.38	4	84.12	-3.11	96	197
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	48	99	68	1	127	8	0.03	-0.11	1	30.72	-11.29	73	132
Eugene	46	97	67	-2	120	-6	0.05	-0.13	1	38.00	-10.51	78	149
Hillsboro	51	93	67	2	122	5	0.15	-0.05	2	29.90	-6.84	81	156
McMinnville	51	95	68	2	128	9	0.13	0.00	1	33.07	-9.52	78	153
Portland AP	57	94	69	-1	136	2	0.37	0.18	2	29.06	-6.38	82	152
Salem	51	96	68	0	125	3	0.11	-0.03	1	37.82	-0.75	98	158
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	52	95	72	-2	154	-1	0.00	-0.07	0	28.12	-2.50	92	115
Medford	53	102	73	-1	162	-6	0.00	-0.07	0	19.10	0.68	104	112
Roseburg AP	53	98	69	-1	137	3	0.00	-0.12	0	33.00	0.79	102	138
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	43	92	66	-1	114	-4	0.40	0.26	3	17.06	3.54	126	97
Heppner	49	96	70	-1	139	-1	0.59	0.45	5	14.16	0.78	106	135
Hermiston AP	45	91	72	-2	158	-5	0.20	0.13	3	10.74	2.09	124	92
John Day	47	90	69	-1	134	1	0.00	-0.20	0	12.05	-0.57	95	114
Moro	42	92	67	-3	118	-14	0.10	0.03	2	12.25	1.51	114	94
Pendleton AP	51	92	72	-2	157	-9	0.23	0.16	4	14.19	2.61	123	106
The Dalles	53	92	72	5	158	36	0.25	0.18	2	13.98	1.88	116	103
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	40	88	63	-2	95	-3	0.31	0.19	2	13.17	1.91	117	83
Burns AP	36	90	65	-3	105	-8	0.00	-0.14	0	8.74	-0.74	92	89
Klamath Falls	42	89	63	-6	91	-35	0.00	-0.14	0	12.56	-0.50	96	97
Lakeview	37	88	62	-6	88	-30	0.00	-0.08	0	8.87	-6.31	58	63
Redmond	39	90	65	-3	105	-11	0.18	0.08	2	9.61	1.47	118	85
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	40	92	65	-3	109	-14	0.03	-0.18	1	8.14	-2.04	80	100
Joseph	45	84	64	3	101	22	0.27	0.06	4	17.79	-6.21	74	133
La Grande AP	45	90	67	-4	121	-20	0.16	-0.04	2	13.02	-3.75	78	102
Union	43	97	68	0	126	1	0.32	0.15	3	15.43	2.37	118	131
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	55	95	74	-3	170	-13	0.00	-0.07	0	8.62	-0.71	92	74
Rome	45	97	75	3	174	21	0.00	-0.07	0	7.12	-0.76	90	78

Summary based on National Weather Service data.
Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.
DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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